

Drought-Smart Indigenous Ag Planning in NM

- Challenge: Indigenous farmers and ranchers in the U.S. Southwest face increasing climate stresses such as longer, more intense droughts, rising temperatures, and shifting growing seasons. Pueblos, Tribes, and individual farmers and ranchers are challenged with building capacity to undertake soil health, grazing, and food security projects to increase resilience and implement climate-smart agricultural systems.
- Project: Pilot partnership **to enhance agricultural drought and climate adaptation for Indigenous farmers and ranchers in the Middle Rio Grande Pueblos region.**
- Partners: The Santa Ana Pueblo located in New Mexico, the Intertribal Agriculture Council (IAC), the Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute (SIPI), National Drought Mitigation Center, and the USDA Southwest Climate Hub
- Funded through an NRCS “Conservation Outreach: Equity through Cooperative Agreement”



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- Expected benefits and outcomes:
 - Improved understanding of traditional drought knowledge and technical training needs that can be used to guide future NRCS programs and outreach efforts
 - Increased capacity within Middle Rio Grande Pueblo agencies and organizations to work with farmers, ranchers, and natural resource departments to successfully apply for and receive USDA NRCS funding
 - A trained cohort of college students that can serve as future drought and conservation leaders
 - Bolstered collaborations for advancing climate-smart Indigenous agriculture throughout the region
- Start date: Spring 2022



Objectives

1. Develop an understanding of past drought response and adaptation and traditional drought knowledge, as well as the drought and conservation planning capacity needs, of Indigenous farmers and ranchers of the Santa Ana Pueblo and Coalition of the Middle Rio Grande Basin Pueblos.
2. Building upon the results of Objective 1, co-design and implement activities that support drought and climate planning technical capacity for the Santa Ana and Middle Rio Grande Basin Pueblos.
3. Engage and train the next generation of farmers, ranchers, and natural resource managers in drought and conservation planning through remote internships.
4. Gather feedback on the knowledge learned and outcomes of the technical capacity-building activities and share in a report.



